

FAREWELL, MEL



SUBMITTED | NORTHWEST ARCHIVES

Mel Tjeerdsma built the Northwest football program from the bottom up. In his first season, Tjeerdsma finished 0-11 and in just four years he transformed the program winning back-to-back national championships in 1998 and 1999. His 100th win, pictured above, was celebrated in September 2004.

Final curtain call arrives for Bearcat legend

ISAIAH SWANN

Sports Editor | @iswanny10

He is the orchestrator of Northwest Missouri State's culture, success and most importantly, family. He was more than a legend, he was a creator.

When the three-time national champion coach steps down following his five years as the Northwest athletic director, Mel Tjeerdsma's name will not be written in the stars or in gold, but in permanent Bearcat green.

"He's been such a big part of



the fabric of Northwest Missouri State," Northwest football coach Rich Wright said. "I've been here for over 25 years. As a young guy out of college and watching what he did as far as transforming this football program from something that was really bad to something that is almost unfathomable."

On the Bearcat athletic website, Tjeerdsma possesses the largest and most comprehensive biography.

His 183-43 record is impressive. The 12 conference championships plus being a 12-time MIAA Coach of the Year is improbable.

Add that to being a four-

time national coach of the year, a three-time national champion and a pending induction to the 2018 College Football Hall of Fame class, there's no comparison.

What isn't listed is how Tjeerdsma didn't just turn around the program's success. He drastically changed its culture.

"We talk so much about culture, and it's been a buzzword the last four to five years, but he was doing culture before culture was cool," Wright said.

Tjeerdsma's climb to the top of NCAA Division II football wasn't because of his interest in winning.

It was something bigger.

The first person to see that was a former Northwest president Dean Hubbard.

"He was really concerned about the students," Tjeerdsma said. "Dr. Hubbard wanted someone that would change the culture."

Hubbard had an issue with the type of student-athletes Northwest was attracting. In the final stages of coach interviews, it was between Tjeerdsma and current Central Missouri head coach Jim Svoboda.

SEE **LEGEND** | A9



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN

Missouri Academy students Paige Breyfogle and Fuechai Vang participate in a water filtering activity during UNICEF at Northwest's Water Walk April 14.

Organization hosts fundraiser to raise awareness for water crisis

RACHEL ADAMSON

Assistant News Editor | @racheladamsonxi

UNICEF at Northwest hosted its first annual Water Walk Saturday to raise awareness for the global water crisis.

UNICEF at Northwest President Kathrine Gerhardt organized this event. About 35 people attended the walk, raising \$110.

Student Senate made a charitable donation of \$1,500 to the organization. This money will be donated to UNICEF water and sanitation efforts.

The Office of Student Involvement and Residential Hall Association helped to fund the Water Walk.

According to UNICEF, 2.1 billion people do not have access to

clean drinking water, causing 800 children to die daily from diarrhea due to unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation.

"The main goal was to draw attention to the global water crisis and how it disproportionately affects kids," Gerhardt said. "Through it, we were also able to raise some funds for UNICEF water and sanitation efforts."

Gerhardt said despite the cold and rainy weather, the event had a good turnout. The Water Walk was originally going to be a three mile walk but was cut down to a mile walk due to the weather.

UNICEF Secretary Mahesh Bashyal said the Water Walk was a flashback to two years ago when he carried his own water for a year.

"Back in Nepal, I was a teacher

in the remote part of the country," Bashyal said. "I was a guy who had water facilities; I was use to tap water. But for a whole one year, I lived in such a remote part of the country where I had to take showers in streams. I had to carry buckets of water to do my laundry; no washer, no dryer. For everything, you just had to carry buckets of water. This was my daily routine."

Participants worked in partners, acting as though they had just filled up their buckets with water at a well and then had to carry the bucket of water home. Along the way, there were three stops to display different obstacles the children might face such as flooding, difficult terrain and school.

SEE **WATER** | A5

Northwest reopens University Drive after six months of extensive repairs

MATTHEW BERRY

Chief Reporter | @TheMatthewBerry

Facility Services has completed the work to the tunnel system underneath University Drive. As a result, University Drive is now open after being closed for six months.

Vice President of Capital Projects and Facility Services Allen Mays said the tunnel was closed after finding serious structural issues in the fall. Mays explained this in an earlier story from last fall.

"Right now, the actual top portion of the tunnel is resting on top of the piping installation," Mays said in the Oct. 19 issue of The Missourian. "We are concerned about having additional traffic that would put additional pressure or shear force on that pipping."

In a recent interview, Mays said this issue resulted in a very large project for Facility Services.

"That was a big project for us, and it was an emergency, so it took a lot of time to get it back together," Mays said.

Despite taking six months, Mays said its emergency status gave it top priority. That priority was given to get University Drive open as quickly as possible.

"(The project) took on an emergency status, so it became a much larger project based on the urgency

of having to close that road down and do that rehab," Mays said.

Mays said the new tunnel is a big improvement over the old one.

"(We have a) brand new tunnel, brand new systems in the tunnel (and) brand new lighting in the tunnel," Mays said.

The old tunnel lasted over 100 years. Mays said that this new tunnel should do the same.

"We should not have to worry about that in our lifetime," Mays said.

Some students are glad University Drive is open. Freshman Nicole Albertson said that the closure was inconvenient, but reasonable.

"I just have to go the long way around instead, but it wasn't that big of a deal," Albertson said.

The road being open means a easier way to get across campus for Albertson.

"It will be more convenient that way," Albertson said.

While the traffic returns to normal, the fountain will not. Mays said the fountain was removed due to being problematic, and will not return.

"We actually still have that fountain, it's back there in my hoop shed," Mays said.

SEE **FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Northwest faculty members prepare for retirement

KATIE STEVENSON

News Editor | @KatieSStevenson

As the school year comes to a close, eight Northwest faculty members are planning to retire.

According to the Northwest website the eight faculty members are Jim Eiswert, associate professor of philosophy, Brenda Ryan, senior instructor of English, Karen Schaffer, assistant professor of biology, Lisa Stobbe, instructor of biology, Ben Collier, associate professor of economics, Jon Gustafson, instructor of recreation, Janet Marta, professor of marketing and Rego Jones, senior instructor of agricultural sciences.

Both associate professor of philosophy James Eiswert and senior instructor of English Brenda Ryan have a strong history with Northwest. Ryan has been teaching at Northwest for 28 years, and previously got both her undergraduate and graduate degree from the University. Eiswert has been teaching at Northwest for 30 years.

Being at Northwest for such a long time, Ryan said she has established a strong support system.

“It (Northwest) has been such a huge part of my life, it is so much part of my identity from going to school here to teaching,” Ryan said. “It is going to be strange to not have that presence, but hopefully, I can do a bit of adjunct teaching to keep me involved with colleagues and students. I’ve traipsed around this campus for a long time, so it is a really big part of who I am, and I am really fortunate that I went to school here and that I got to teach here.”

Eiswert said his experiences at Northwest have been very enjoyable.

“I’ve enjoyed working very much with DCM, Designated Curricular Matters Committee, and Faculty Senate as we reshape general education,” Eiswert said. “I have also very much enjoyed working with the theater department on many productions both as a director as well as an



COLIN CAIN | NW MISSOURIAN

Associate professor of philosophy Jim Eiswert will retire from Northwest at the end of the semester after 30 years of teaching, along with seven other faculty members.

actor at Northwest.”

Ryan said one key component to her success at Northwest was thanks to the family-like environment created by the English department.

“I am really lucky and our department is really lucky to have a really fine department chair, and we just really get along well, which is not always the case in some departments,” Ryan said. “Academically, we support each other, professionally, we support each other, but it is also a really close group of friends, so I think that is something that stood out to me. I have always been treated with a great deal of respect, and

we just have a really good sense of collegiality.”

Eiswert said, for him, working at Northwest has been an amazing experience that allowed him to help cultivate and grow students minds.

“It has been a great place,” Eiswert said. “I have enjoyed working with the students and colleagues and I have felt a profound sense of community. I think we do good work in helping students develop and hone their skills for their own careers and future life. I just have really enjoyed every moment of it.”

Ryan said one of her favorite parts of teaching at Northwest was the students and being able to

watch them grow.

“I think also I really connect with the students and it is watching the students evolve,” Ryan said. “So, you have someone his or her freshman year and you sort of follow them through their four or five years. I just saw a young man upstairs earlier this morning that I remembered as a freshman and now he is graduating.”

Freshman Gina Bisacca said Ryan’s caring attitude for students shines through in her work with students.

“She was honestly one of the most caring English professors I’ve ever had,” Bisacca said. “She was supportive of all the writing

I showed her, but she also could always easily pick up on edits I needed to make.”

Ryan said student growth was one of the most rewarding aspects of her teaching career.

“It is just really rewarding to see those young people develop into these amazing adults and go on with their lives,” Ryan said. “I get really attached so, it is like sending them on their way and that is a really good feeling. That is something I really enjoy seeing them thrive and seeing them literally growing and change in front of your eyes.”

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Bill could change student debt repayment

CAMERON MONTEMAYOR
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

A U.S. bill that would drastically alter the student loan offering and repayment process is making its way through the U.S. House.

Dubbed the Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act, and recently passed out of the Education and Workforce Committee, the bill contains a variety of changes that Republican-led lawmakers say will help streamline federal student aid and cut unnecessary spending.

Most notably, the student loan forgiveness component that kicks in after 20 to 25 years of repayment would be almost entirely removed, in addition to restrictions on a number of loans, grants and repayment plans.

Under the current system, borrowers can choose from a set of monthly payment plans dictated by their earnings, with the remaining balance of their debt forgiven after 20 to 25 years.

For graduate students whose level of debt is notably higher than an undergraduate's, having options that keep payments at affordable levels allows borrowers to reinvest in their careers and families.

Critics of the loan forgiveness program have called for limits on the amount of graduate student debt that is eligible for forgiveness. "It is now standard for students to expect their debt to be forgiven," Sen. Lamar Alexander said.

The current system with eight repayment options would be limited down to two, one being a standard loan repayment plan similar the existing 10-year plan and the other being a revised income-based repayment program.

Under the proposed income-based payment plan, the monthly payment rate would be raised from 10 to 15 percent.

In place of the loan forgive-

ness program would be a \$25 minimum monthly payment cap and the condition that borrowers can have their remaining debt forgiven if they repay the entirety of the loan according to guidelines in the standard repayment plan.

"It's a very regressive and punitive change," Justin Draeger said, President of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Justin Draeger said to the Washington Post.

The standard loan repayment plan requires borrowers pay a fixed monthly amount, ensuring

loans are paid off within 10 years.

"The cap provides some insurance that your costs will never exceed a certain amount of money," Draeger said. "It's useful and worth exploring, but taking away any form of loan forgiveness is a big penalty."

Staying in line with U.S. lawmakers emphasis on consolidation, the bill calls for limiting the number of federal student loans offered; the PLUS and Stafford loans would be combined into a single Federal ONE loan.

All loans contained in the Fed-

eral ONE would also be unsubsidized, meaning they would accumulate interest while a student is attending school.

Students currently have the ability to decide whether or not they want to accept loans that are unsubsidized and carry additional costs.

Additionally, all federal grants would be phased out with the exception of the Pell grant, a federal government subsidy provided directly to students with financial need.

However, a number of regula-

tory changes would also increase the number of students eligible for Pell Grants, an estimated 1.1 million students would additionally receive grants.

Former President Barack Obama notably reformed the student loan process in 2010 in the midst of a U.S. recession.

His decision cut banks and private lenders out of its position in the loan lending process, instead putting the responsibility on the government to issue them.

The loan forgiveness program was launched as part of his legislation.

The act also expanded income-driven repayment plans that helped limit monthly loan payments from 15 to 10 percent of someone's income.

Supporters of the new bill say it will save billions of dollars in government spending by eliminating generous and unnecessary loan programs that many students have taken advantage of.

They point to a report released by the Department of Education detailing the shortcomings of the loan forgiveness program and its negative impact on other loan programs.

The report shows that the direct loan program went from being a \$25 billion surplus in 2012 to less than \$5 billion by 2015. Federal student loan debt shot up from \$154.9 billion in 2009 to \$1.1 trillion by the end of 2017.

But recent scores released by the Congressional Budgeting Office indicate that the bill would not cut costs, but instead add to it.

According to the CBO's report, the bill's provision increasing the scope of Pell Grants would add nearly 12 billion to spending on federal student aid.

Critics have said the bill increases the burden that students bear financially, with the amount of debt that students incur out of college already high.

PROSPER ACT

1.1 MILLION

more students eligible for Pell Grants

increase of student federal loan debt in eight years

\$945.1 MILLION

\$12 BILLION

added to federal spending from Pell Grants


decrease in direct loan surplus

\$20 MILLION


TAYLOR GONNERMAN

SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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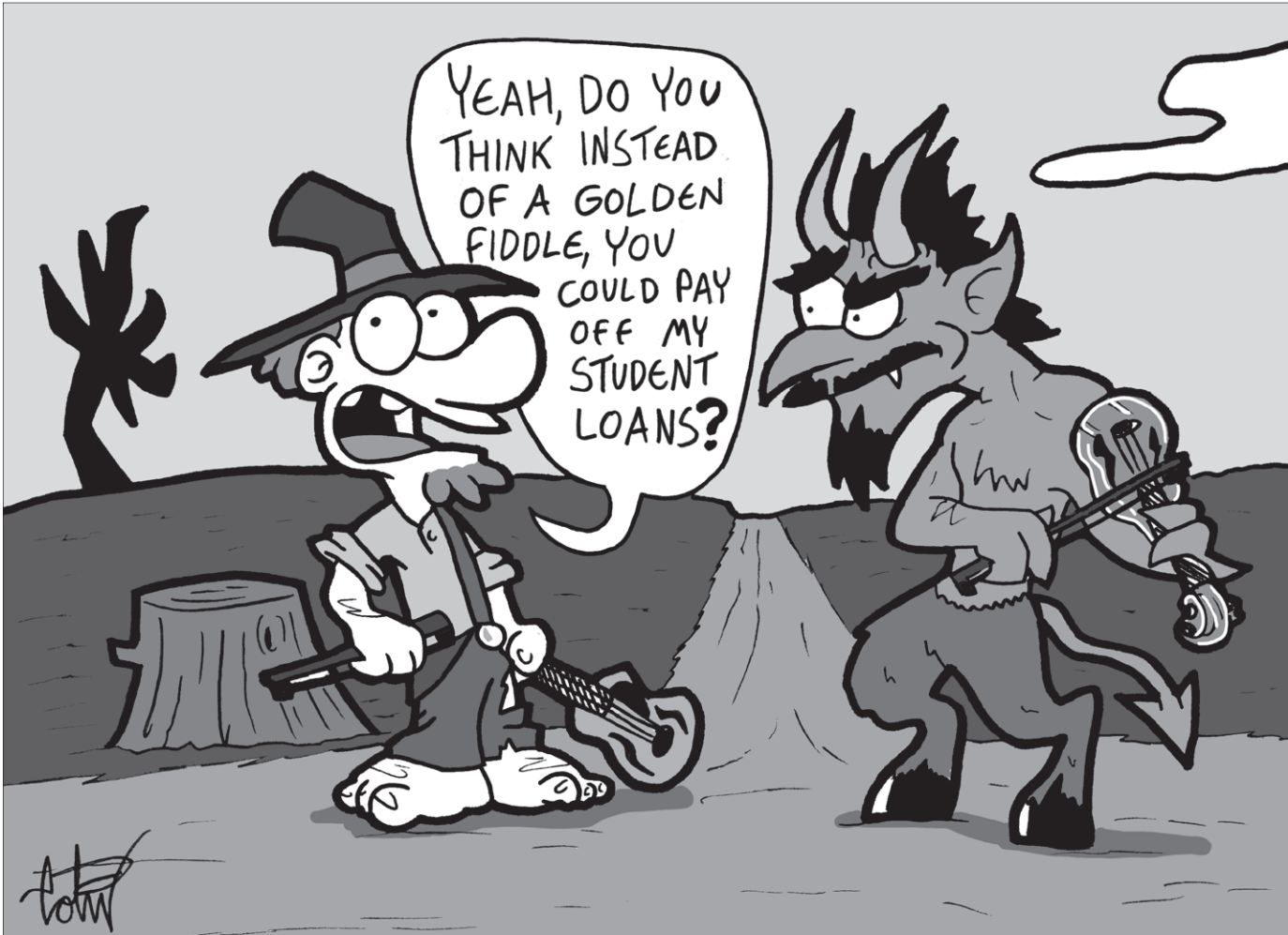
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COLIN VAUGHAN

OUR VIEW:

PROSPER Act hard pill to swallow

One of the most recent bills working its way through the House of Representatives will make or break students deciding whether they want to pursue higher education or not, but it is a step in the right direction.

While the bill, known as the “Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act,” will not directly affect how Northwest or other universities conduct their business, it will impact the way students pay back the loans they accumulate.

In short, the biggest concerns the near 600-page bill proposes includes much higher spending on the student’s part month-by-month.

Income based repayment

plans would be eliminated and the monthly payback rate of loans will go up 50 percent.

There are currently four types of income repayment plans, and the PROSPER Act will consolidate these repayment plans down to two.

Additionally, what seems to be the biggest blow to both college student wallets and self-esteem is the fact that loan forgiveness will no longer be offered after 20-25 years.

Any seniors reading right now are likely shaking in their shoes, but things are not all bad.

Overall, the method by which the government garners money from students was put into place during the financial crisis in 2009 as a way to make college more af-

fordable for students. At the time, these massive federal cuts resulted in payment plans more in favor of the average college-bound student.

However, these cuts do not turn over a profit. The PROSPER Act is an attempt to balance student payment plan with the amount of money the government will be bringing in from taxpayers. These new reforms are estimated to collect an addition \$40 billion per year, bringing education monetary intake up to \$90 billion per year.

This increase in income is small compared to the more than \$1 trillion in total unpaid loans, but there needs to be steps in place to dig out this debt. This is not an attempt to pickpocket students of their hard-earned money; it is sim-

ply an attempt to set a balance.

The current method was set in place during a time where the decision to go to college was riskier than ever. Stresses that come with making massive change are inherent, but add on top a failing economy and striving for higher education suddenly becomes nonsensical. There needed to be revisions that made college make more sense and it worked.

It may invoke a feeling of insecurity for those coming out of college, but the PROSPER Act is a needed reformation on outdated ideas.

Balance is needed. Though we may not like it, it is time we pitch in a bit more to aid the national college debt.

PWI gives way to reflect



MEKA WRIGHT
Opinion Columnist
@itstheredhair_

It’s never been a hard task for me to conform if I must. I say conform because it is the only word to relate to the actions of watering down my culture, my beliefs, my ecentric “Wow, how did you get your hair like that!” style, to fit the standards that have always surrounded me.

Predominately White Institutions, or PWI’s, were not a foreign concept before attending Northwest. In fact, subconsciously, it may have been the familiarity of the environment that drew me to the campus.

Growing up in Lee’s Summit a suburb outside of Kansas City, it would seem Northwest was the college equivalent of high school. Though transitions from inner-city schooling to suburban is something that can truly alter any person of color.

While I’ve always been, as my family calls it, “proper,” speaking my words fully with efficient pronunciation, articulation and diction, properness made me “sound white” to family though my blackness seeped through decorum like black oil. It essentially left me unapproachable, unpopular and, frankly, isolated.

Being a black student and being surrounded by white students for the first time can feel like a flock of speechless birds gawking. As bullying and isolation increased, each day, I discovered I’d rather shy away from the stares by conforming to the things I recognized as normal. The process happened so gradually, I almost didn’t notice the changes; it is only natural for a child to want to “fit in.”

Of course, my changes in attitude, style of clothing and social standard were met with a sense of acceptance, though in reality, it was mere tolerance. Though tolerance was better than isolation, and swallowing down my “friends” microaggressive behaviors was better than being the “hostile black girl.” Finally, I was “The black girl named, Carmeka”

As if I was one of the dancers from the end of “The Wiz,” the cloaked facet I had draped myself in slipped from my shoulders as I progressed through my freshman year of college. As my interest developed, I gravitated towards a sense of familiarity in the small and close-knit community of black students on campus.

Like many black college students who attend PWIs, according to a Gallup study which explored the difference between black students who attended Historically Black Colleges and Universities, or HBCUs and PWIs, there was significant lack of support. Support that could only be found in those who had experienced the same hardships, though I envied those peers who never experienced the package deal of conformity that came with being the “token black kid.”

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Autism Speaks does not deserve your funding



KATIE STEVENSON
News Editor
@KatieSStevenson

April is National Autism Awareness Month. People will be turning on blue porch lights and posting puzzle pieces all over social media to support those on the autism spectrum. Many of those supporters will also tend to support one the nation’s largest autism advocacy organization, Autism Speaks.

However, Autism Speaks is not supportive of the autism community, nor do they help those with autism. Being such a large and prominent company, everyone tends to fall into the Autism Speaks trap. My best friend is on the autism spectrum, and I still supported the organization because they are so out in the public eye.

While my goal is to not drag the organization through the mud, I want people to be educated about the organization so they can know who and how to support those on the autism spectrum.

Bob and Suzanne Wright founded Autism Speaks in 2005 after their grandson was diagnosed with autism. Since its conception, it has been the leading organization for autism research and awareness. Unfortunately, the autistic community and sup-

porters have expressed dissatisfaction with the organization because of how it spends its money and the way it represents people with autism.

Most would think Autism Speaks’ budget would go directly toward aiding families and people with autism, or at least trying to find the cause of the disorder.

However, only four percent of Autism Speaks’ budget goes toward the “Family Services” grant, a grant that is meant to be the means of funding services. But executives at the organization can garner \$430,000, some of the highest in the autism world. Moreover, most of Autism Speaks’ budget goes toward research rather than to direct care.

Autism Speaks has a history of not allocating its funds to appropriate research. Its symbol, the puzzle piece, was created to represent its purpose; to find the missing pieces of genetic material to establish a connection with autism and genes.

While finding a cure may seem great and all, the organization is only looking for a cure, not the causation of the disorder and its genetic links. Autism Speaks wants to cure the world of autism without caring if those with autism want to be cured.



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Blotters for the week of April 19

Maryville Public Safety

March 30
A summons was issued to **Dylan Proffit**, 25, for dog at large at the 700 block of North Fillmore Street.

April 4
A summons was issued to **Aaron Wallace**, 25, for dog at large at the 1800 block of North Grand Avenue.

April 5
There is an ongoing investigation for lost/stolen property at the 300 block of North Main Street.

April 6
A summons was issued to **Allen Hollis**, 21, for failure to register a motor vehicle, failure to maintain financial responsibility and seat belt violation at the 200 block of North Buchanan Street.

April 7
A summons was issued to **Lawrence Bohall**, 49, from Ravenwood, Missouri, for failure to register a motor vehicle and failure to maintain financial responsibility at the 100 block of North County Club Road.

April 8
There is an ongoing investigation for a stolen motor vehicle at the 500 block of West Edwards Street.

April 9
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny from a motor vehicle at the 28000 block of U.S. Business Highway 71.

April 10
A summons was issued to **Kodee Purdy**, 17, from Pick-

ering, Missouri for not having a valid driver's licenses and improper plates at the 500 block of North Buchanan Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for larceny at the 200 block of North Vine Street.

April 12
A summons was issued to **Monic Owen**, 20, from Smithville, Missouri, for Littering at the 100 block of North Buchanan Street.

A summons was issued **Zachary Ebert**, 23, from Omaha, Nebraska for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to comply, peace disturbance and supplying alcohol to a minor at 100 block of North Buchanan Street.

A summons was issued to **Felica Grout**, 17, for minor in possession and failure to comply at the 100 block of North Buchanan Street.

A summons was issued to **Michael Wienands**, 22, from Liberty, Missouri, for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to comply, peace disturbance and supplying alcohol to a minor at 100 block of North Buchanan Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for property damage at the 300 block of North Charles Street.

There is an ongoing investigation for forgery at the 100 block of North Depot Street.

A bicycle was recovered at the 600 block of North Saunders Street.

April 13
A summons was issued to **Kase Critten**, 19, from Gallatin, Mis-



RACHEL ADAMSON | NW MISSOURIAN
Benjamin Westerman and Ryan Lanman finish the Water Walk for UNICEF at Northwest April 14.

souri, for minor in possession and possession of a fake I.D. at the 100 block of East Fourth Street.

A summons was issued to Rachel Skaggs, 27, for driving while suspended and failure to maintain right half of roadway at the 500 block of North Laura Street.

A summons was issued to **Rickey Crowley**, 18, from Conception Junction, Missouri, for driving while suspended and failure to register a motor vehicle at the 1400 block of North County Club Road.

April 14
A summons was issued to **Charles Steeb**, 19, from Omaha, Nebraska, for minor in possession at the 1600 block of North Main Street.

A summons was issued to **Chad Thetford**, 21, from Parkville, Missouri, for property damage at the 500 block of West Sixteenth Street.

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

April 8
There was a closed investigation for a liquor law violation at University Drive.

April 10
A summons was issued to **Brett Behringer**, 20, for possession of marijuana at Lot 25.

April 12
There were six closed investigations for liquor law violations at Millikan Hall.

April 13
A summons was issued to **Hilare Place**, 33, from Kansas City, Missouri, for wanted on warrant at Lot 31.

April 14
There was a closed investigation for liquor law violation at College Park Drive.

WATER CONTINUED FROM A1

At the third stop, participants either had a yellow or green sticker. Those with yellow stickers had to continue carrying the bucket of water by themselves. The yellow stickers symbolized females and the green stickers symbolized boys. This activity served to show that in some countries, it is seen as more important for boys to go to school rather than girls, leaving the duty of collecting water to girls.

Northwest student Ryan Lanman said he was expecting the Water Walk to be a little more challenging but still learned from the experience.

“It opened my eyes to the idea of not having a close water source,” Lanman said. “I found it ironic that we were in the rain. That stirred a thought of how lucky people who don’t have a close water source must feel when they do get rain like this, and we’re out here in ponchos and gloves and coats that block all this water when we should be catching it. It’s just interesting to me thinking from that perspective.”

Gerhardt plans on organizing the event again next year. She said her goal is to have a bigger turnout. Gerhardt hopes to do this by finding a better way to contact and reach out to people.

Gerhardt said UNICEF at Northwest sent out an email to all campus clubs and organizations, inviting them to attend. However, she only heard back from one organization. Along with emailing invites, Gerhardt also invited people via social media and wrote in chalk in front of Garrett Strong and the B.D. Owens Library.

“The main goal was to make everybody aware and have a better global perspective,” Gerhardt said. “I think the more people we could reach, the better it would be.”

Lanman echoed Gerhardt, encouraging more people to attend next year’s Water Walk.

“Anytime there is an event like this on campus, people should really try hard to attend,” Lanman said. “Even if it is a weekend, going home every weekend isn’t always the go-to thing; you should think about stuff like this that is going on campus.”

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LEARNING TO A GREATER DEGREE

Backyard Olympics fall into place

JAMES CHRISTENSEN
Chief Reporter | @jameschris1701

Going camping is a staple of a Midwest summer, and now after a day of fun, more people will get to have that experience in the great outdoors. Sigma Society braved the cold and had some fun as they raised money for a Missouri charity April 14 in Bearcat Arena.

The service based organization hosted a fundraiser to collect funds for Wonderland Camp, a summer camp specifically designed for people of all ages with disabilities to experience life at a summer camp like a normal child.

Wonderland Camp is a summer camp located in Rocky Mount, Missouri, and is specifically designed to offer a chance at a fun and relaxing time for people ages of 6 and up with a variety of disabilities. This camp was founded back in 1969 and provides an 11-week long summer camp session, with the themes changing every week to provide a variety to campers.

Jessie Ratliff, a senior parks and recreation management major with a minor in sports management, was one of the committee chairs that planned the event and said it was a year in the making.

“I had thought of the idea of having a Backyard Olympics last year in one of my programming classes, and I was inspired to do this event with Sigma Society,” Ratliff said. “Sigma was excited



Sigma Society members Kirsten Bono, Lauren Comb, Kayla Branstetter and Maddison Haynes make the most of the organization's Backyard Olympics Saturday after the event was moved inside Bearcat Arena due to the rainy weather.

to host this type of event and help raise money for a great cause.”

Cory Polk, the Executive Director of Wonderland Camp,

works to provide a normal summer camp experience to all of their campers.

“We offer our campers an out-

door experience that they typically would not have,” Polk said. “Most of our campers live in group homes or outside of a traditional

household.”

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



Agricultural education major Maggie Voisard volunteers at Horace Mann's STEM-a-thon April 12, leading an activity with a group of students.

Children explore STEM fun

MEKA WRIGHT
Chief Reporter | @itstheredhair_

Childlike fun and science, technology, engineering and mathematics came together for a educational and enjoyable day long STEM-a-thon held by Horace Mann April 12.

What started as an innovative idea for a fundraiser for Horace Mann students turned into an event the children couldn't wait to be involved in. Horace Mann principal Sandy Seipel and the Parent Advisory Council, or PAC, developed a method of fundraiser that was fun for everyone.

“Horace Mann doesn't do a lot in the fundraising area, so we wanted to look at what those options were,” Seipel said. “We didn't want parents or students to

do door-to-door sales, so we decided on the STEM-a-thon idea.”

With the help of students' families, Horace Mann faculty developed a list of names of people from the community to ask to be involved in the creative fundraiser. As STEM-a-thon gets ready for its second annual event, it has quickly become something that Horace Mann faculty and its student body recognize as a long running tradition.

The day long event encapsulated the exciting and learning nature of STEM programs. With a series of events such as fruit DNA testing, computer programing and scientific experience, the K-6 students explored the each branch of STEM activities, learning and developing particular interest in several areas.

“They get to do the stations and focus on STEM activities,” Seipel said. “It's fun, it's engaging and they get to interact with college students all day long doing experiments, discovering and exploring...they're excited about these things and look for ways to do these things at home.”

With the collaboration of the University's science, engineering, computer science and mathematic department, Horace Mann students were able to integrating their learning with interactive participation as well as co-mingling with professors and college students of each department.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Local Me Too panel encourages strength through solidarity

SARAH VON SEGGERN
Chief Reporter | @NWM_AE

The crowd was silent with tears and raw emotion as the voices from the different women rang throughout the room with phrases like, “No is no,” “It was my fault,” and “My heart broke, but I had to stay strong for my daughter.”

In collaboration with Title IX and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator and Director of Equity and Accessibility Margaret-Ann Pierre, the Maryville Children and Family Center had a panel of six individuals share their personal stories as part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) at 6:30 p.m. April 13 in the Student Union Boardroom. After they finished their stories, questions were taken from the audience for the panel to discuss.

For Pierre, who prosecuted her first sexual assault case with five minor victims in 1993, sexual and domestic violence is a very important matter. Her biggest concern was getting people to participate.

“As the day arrived and it was a spring-like day with beautiful weather, of course, as you can imagine, (my) concern intensified,” Pierre said. “Simply because I would never want the ladies from the Children and Family Center nor any other sexual abuse victim to ever feel like no one was

interested in hearing their stories. Many have had to live in silence far too long.”

Pierre reported there were more than 75 participants in attendance which led to an engaging discussion between the audience and the panelists.

“In addition, (there was) overwhelming positive feedback I began receiving via the phone calls, text messages and emails, which began late Friday evening,” Pierre said. “I was quite elated for both the panelists and the attendees.”

The women who represented the panel were ordinary mothers, wives and daughters who volunteered to share their story and their journey towards healing.

These stories of domestic abuse and sexual assault were told as a way to spread awareness and bring hope to other victims by letting them know they are not alone even creating a new hashtag, #strong. This panel was also put together as a way to participate and raise awareness for the #MeToo movement.

Executive Director of the Children and Family Center Linda Mattson has been helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault since 2016 as a staff member.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

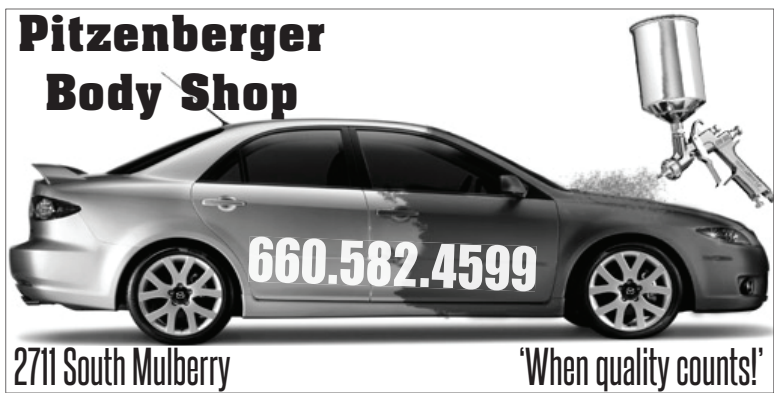


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THE STROLLER: Your Bearcat wants you to be considerate of your neighbors

On behalf of all the neighbors living next to, under, above and around your noisy habits, please, for the sake of every tired college student, be quiet and leave us to sleep in peace during finals week.

I'm all for good times and partying hard before finals, but during the week of, loud and obnoxious behavior is less than favorable.

While your dorm, bedroom or your living room is your space to do what you want, I would strongly suggest you rethink your idea of fun before putting them in action. Especially if it involves pulling the fire alarm at 1 a.m. when there are people

sleeping for their 7:30 a.m. final. Nothing's more frustrating than hearing the blaring alarm system go off after only three hours of sleeping. If you plan on having a little fun during finals, then take it out to the bars or, for those underage, McDonald's.

If you can't find the noisy neighbor, then you are most likely that person.

What you do during finals week, especially if you find yourself in the rowdy bunch, will be remembered by those who only wanted sleep.

Freshman year finals week is all too clear a memory. Instead of remembering diploids and haploids, I remember people

running through the hallways in a crazy frenzy due to the simple fact we didn't have a resident assistant at the time.

Studying after 11:45 p.m. meant the library was closed, making there little to no peace for the student.

If it takes telling yourself that you are in the library all the time to keep you quiet, then so be it. Nobody wants to be the loud crowd everybody hates when they're studying.

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.

ROLL FOR INITIATIVE

Dungeons & Dragons rises from nerdy to popular

"It has been a source of inspiration for artists of many kinds,

"My most recent campaign is based on the anime 'RWBY' and is being Dungeon Mastered by my friend William," junior Lindsay Fares said. "We haven't done much along the lines of the actual campaign just yet. Right now, we're in the middle of nowhere battling creatures called Grimm. But, there's so much more in store than we realize."

For monsters, they usually fit in the world they are based in. Again, in traditional Dungeons

While the game is still slightly obscure and a symbol of nerdiness, it has risen in popularity. The creativity allows for those of all walks of life and interests to find a game which suits them.



-Lindsay Fares, junior

"I started playing Dungeons and Dragons when I was a freshman in highschool, but I had to



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Paul Rybolt studies his character sheet during a game of Dungeons and Dragons at the Board Game Cafe Sunday evening.



LEGEND
CONTINUED FROM A1

Everyone knew Tjeerdsma got the position, but no one expected the overhaul that was yet to come.

“I was unhappy with the football team in particular and the lack of discipline,” Hubbard said. “There was always problems in the dorms, the bars downtown and skipping classes.”

The mistakes off the field were translating to final results on the scoreboard.

“Only one time in my 34 years as president did I have two football players come into my office and say ‘Look, we’re going out there on Saturday and getting injured because the guy that was supposed to be blocking was drunk Friday night.’” Hubbard said

The next step was a new coach.

The interview process was intentional, but different. Hubbard said his interview questions to the three potential new football coaches were going to have nothing to do with football.

“I’m not going to talk about football because I assume you know a lot about football,” Hubbard said. “So I want to talk to you about the players.”

Here are the exact questions asked by Hubbard himself:

1. I want to know what you do if a football player skips class.

2. I want to know what you do if a football player gets in a fight at a bar.

3. I want to know what you do if a football player vandalizes or is destructive in the resident hall.

For every question, Hubbard wanted a specific example and how it would be handled.

“Based upon those answers, we offered the job to Mel,” Hubbard said.

In 1994, Northwest’s culture renovations were underway.

Not only did Tjeerdsma take the job, but Svoboda was added to the offensive artillery game plan as well.

Since, Svoboda has spearheaded Central Missouri’s football program to its second ever NCAA Playoff appearance, as well as assisting in breaking 83 school offensive records and 21 conference offensive records.

“We had a really sharp, steep learning curve,” Svoboda said. “We cleaned house. It was a rough first year to say the least. We were kind of thinking ‘What did we get ourselves into.’”

After going 0-11 at Northwest, the feeling around Maryville was still grim.

A week after the season was over, Hubbard called what may have been the most impactful gathering in Maryville history. It included a steak dinner, and all of the program’s coaches.

“That was a pretty defining moment for us,” Tjeerdsma said. “The message that was sent was ‘I believe in what you’re doing.’ He (Hubbard) wasn’t caught up in the record.”

To this day, Tjeerdsma and his wife point back to this as one of the most critical moments in growing the Northwest program to what it is today.

Tjeerdsma had the vision, and the University’s president had his support every step of the way.

In 1995, the Bearcats went from



ANDREW SHERRY | SUBMITTED
Mel Tjeerdsma is retiring from Northwest Athletics April 30. He has several honors on his resume, including an induction to the 2018 College Football Hall of Fame.

a winless program, to an above .500 squad to finish 6-5 on the year. In 1996 and 1997, Tjeerdsma led the Bearcats to back-to-back 10 plus win seasons.

“There were different expectations,” Tjeerdsma said. “I think he (Hubbard) thought if we were 5-5 or 7-4, that would be alright.”

The vision for Northwest was never about success. The goal for the University and Tjeerdsma was to build and grow Northwest’s social behaviors and norms found in human societies. He was focussed on encompassing the range of phenomena that are transmitted through social learning in human societies.

Also known as culture.

In 1998, the Bearcats became the first team to finish a perfect 15-0, capturing its first NCAA Division II National Championship.

“He told me several times, ‘I

never dreamt what a national championship would do to this University,’” Tjeerdsma said. “Even today, he’s a huge fan.”

The Bearcats went on to win the very next year, competing in one of the greatest national championship wins in college football history with a 58-52, quadruple overtime win against Carson-Newman.

The culture had taken a 180-degree turn. As a result, Northwest was producing athletes such as Myles Burnside.

Burnside was born and raised in Maryville. He witnessed the transfer from winless in 1994, to national champions in 1998 and 1999.

“I remember before he got here, the job he did to build the program is unparalleled,” Burnside said. “He kind of put this whole University and town on the map. ‘I’m for-

ever grateful that he gave a small town kid like me a chance.”

Fast forward nine years and four national title appearances later, Burnside captured the Division II Defensive Player of the Year in 2008 as well as Tjeerdsma’s third national crown in 2009.

One year later Tjeerdsma retired from coaching football and in 2014, returned as an athletic director.

Since then, the Tjeerdsma legacy has only grown. A trio of national titles under former head coach Adam Dorrel pushed the Bearcat national title count to six,

which is the most in Division II history.

From Northwest basketball capturing its first NCAA Division II National Championship to five straight Round of 16 appearances for the Northwest tennis program, every sport has felt Tjeerdsma as his effect on every sport will be remembered and treasured forever.

“When you look at the ripple he created, I don’t know if I could paint anyone to a much better testament to his impact on football, the University and all the lives he’s touched along the way,” Wright said.

Tennis rides mid-season success

JOSH REXROAT
Chief Reporter | @Rexroat10

After another busy week, Maryville boys tennis showed its dominance in and out of conference.



The Spoofhounds (6-1) made another busy week of play look like a breeze. Maryville had its first non-conference match of the year Monday, April 16. The boys showed their dominance in a 9-0 win against Southwest Valley.

Maryville turned around and went down to St. Joseph Lafayette Tuesday, April 17. The Spoofhounds took their second meeting as they did the first, coming away with another 9-0 victory.

“They are used to these busy weeks,” coach Nicole McGinness said. “They have been doing this for years. I don’t know how our schedule works out like this, but that is how it works out and they usually do OK.”

The Spoofhounds started their non-conference season in Iowa and dominated the whole night. The boys started with a victory in

doubles by their No. 1 senior Peter Kempf and No. 2 senior Chance Hermelink 8-2. Juniors Mason Walk and Cade Gustafson continued the winning with an 8-1 victory.

Senior Patrick Baker and Sophomore Jaden Hayes struggled more than the others but eventually pulled out the victory 8-5.

“After the snow storm, I think we were a little rusty,” Kempf said. “It’s nice to get back out there and play again.”

The Spoofhounds showed no mercy in singles play either. Kempf got things started again with an 8-1 dominant victory. Kempf’s doubles partner Hermelink took away a shutout victory 8-0.

Walk and Gustafson continued the Spoofhounds dominance, taking away a couple 8-4 victory of their own. Hayes took down the Timberwolves again in singles 8-2. The final Spoofhound to get a win was senior Gage Long. Long, despite not playing doubles, took no time getting his victory, 8-0.

The Spoofhounds have managed to keep consistent in and out

NEXT GAME
Maryville @ Benton
April 19 @ 4 p.m.

of the MEC.

The Spoofhounds first match back into the MEC was against the Fighting Irish of Lafayette. This was the second meeting between the two; the Spoofhounds took the second match the way they took the first 9-0.

“Peter struggled today; I think it was all mental though,” McGinness said. “I think he will be fine; he came away with the victory, so that is all that matters.”

Kempf struggled at the beginning of his match getting down 2-1. Kempf took no time to catch up and get an 8-3 victory.

“Honestly, he has improved,” Kempf said. “That really isn’t an excuse for me; I guess I wasn’t in it today in singles.”

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Maryville baseball lost 12-2 to Bishop LeBlond Monday but bounced back in the consolation bracket Tuesday in a 9-5 victory over Cameron in the St. Joseph Pony Express Invitational. TRENT SPINNER | NW MISSOURIAN

Maryville searches for experience

TRENT SPINNER
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

As the Maryville baseball season dwindles down to district play, the Pony Express Invitational Tournament presented the team with a perfect postseason preview.

The Spoofhounds faced off against opponents from all around the area, to gain exposure to competition after weather has minimized their schedule.

With only three games played between the span of March 28 and April 16, the St. Joseph tournament plays a key role in getting Maryville to playoff level.



In order for a coach to help his team improve, he has to see how they perform in consecutive matchups. This possibility wasn't possible until this tournament came around.

"The great thing about this is getting to play consecutive times in a row, which hasn't happened for our varsity team yet," coach Carson Riedel said. "Continuity is just what we need."

The invitational started less than ideal for the Spoofhounds though as they got punished by LeBlond 12-2 Monday evening.

After the loss though, the approach to the Cameron game was forget about LeBlond and move on to the next one.

With that came a complete

turnaround for Maryville as everything they struggled with melted away to excellence.

"I think we came out with better attitudes and our minds were more in the game," senior Jakob Woods said. "We were ready to play, I mean we came out and were aggressive with the bats and not passive and not looking at strikes."

Cameron and the Spoofhounds battled back in forth in the first few innings exchanging leads every other inning.

Starting with a two lead that the Spoofhounds gained in the first, before they quickly lost it in the third. Maryville stayed an arms length away before a six run fifth inning rally prompted the 9-5

victory for Maryville. One of the many contributors towards the game was Tyler Houchin, who went 3-4 with two RBIs and a homerun shy of the cycle.

"We were all relaxed, I mean baseball is baseball, it's a game of confidence," Houchin said. "We started off against LeBlond a little shaky and needed to capitalize and that's what we did."

Each game the Spoofhounds know that they have to progress as a team in order to succeed. This was evident in the second game of the tournament as Maryville adapted to each other and grew together in their own fashion.

"The team atmosphere when its up, not loud, but up and everyone is against the fence is very

NEXT GAME
Pony Express Tournament @ St. Joseph April 19 @ 4 p.m.

big," Houchin said. "It's big for the guy who is batting and for the pitcher and everyone is there for each other."

Last year Maryville faced a similar amount of circumstances, as they had to ride the wave of the season through all their cancellations.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM



Maryville junior Matthew Madden was the only Spoofhound to medal at the Mustang Invite April 10 in Shenandoah, Iowa, collecting a score of 85 for a 14th place finish. MADI NOLTEI NW MISSOURIAN

Golf improves following slow start to season

TUCKER FRANKLIN
Chief Reporter | @THEREAL_tuckerf

Maryville boys golf was finally able to hit the links as it continues to make the best out of its shortened season.



The Spoofhounds played their first 18-hole round of the year April 10 in Shenandoah, Iowa. Maryville collected fourth as a team with a score of 359 behind Glenwood (308), Atlantic (318) and Denison (355).

Junior Matthew Madden finished in 14th place at the Mustang Invite with a score of 85, and was the only medalist for Maryville. Junior Connor Durbin collected an 89, while sophomore Trent Shell carded a 90. Senior Derrick Shields and junior Brenden Ware both shot 95. Finally, junior Peyton Frueh collected a 111 to cap the scoring.

Maryville found itself with competition that it usually doesn't see by traveling across the border. There were seven large schools in attendance, along with six small schools making a diverse group of teams.

Two days later, the Spoofhounds fell to conference rival Bishop LeBlond 175-155 at Mzingo Lake Golf Course. Brooks Jungbluth of LeBlond earned medalist honors, shooting a 36

NEXT GAME
Maryville @ Chillicothe April 19 @ 4 p.m.

during his nine hole round.

Madden and Shell both brought a score of 42 into the clubhouse. Ware was only three strokes behind carding a 45. Durbin and senior Shields rounded up the Spoofhound varsity 46.

Despite having just two days off, Maryville turned in impressive scores. Coach Brenda Ricks explained her team has made several strides, considering the team hasn't been able to practice as often as they'd like.

"We lost, but LeBlond is a really tough team this year," Ricks said. "I'm pleased that we improved our scores; 175 isn't a bad team score. They beat us by 37 strokes the first match, and this time, it was only by 20 strokes; they had some really solid scores."

Juniors Austin Drake and Dylan Catlett carded a 52 and 54 respectively for the Spoofhounds. Tayton Stagner recorded a 55, Elijah Katsion 74, Nate Sparks, the lone freshman on the team, rounded out the scores with a 78.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

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NW SOFTBALL

MIAA STANDINGS OVERALL MIAA

Washburn.....	36-9	20-2
NORTHWEST.....	25-13	16-6
Central Missouri.....	27-19	16-6
Missouri Western.....	23-23	14-7
Central Oklahoma.....	26-19	14-8
Northeastern State.....	26-23	12-10
Emporia State.....	20-28	10-12
Lindenwood.....	23-19	9-11
Missouri Southern.....	22-24	9-11
Pittsburg State.....	18-30	8-11
Nebraska Kearney.....	14-27	10-14
Fort Hays State.....	11-35	7-17
Southwest Baptist.....	16-31	6-16
Lincoln.....	5-37	0-20

NW BASEBALL

MIAA STANDINGS OVERALL MIAA

Central Missouri.....	27-10	18-7
Central Oklahoma.....	28-14	20-8
Pittsburg State.....	27-14	19-10
NORTHWEST.....	21-18	16-9
Nebraska Kearney.....	22-17	15-10
Northeastern State.....	23-16	14-12
Emporia State.....	22-16	13-12
Missouri Western.....	20-18	13-12
Missouri Southern.....	23-16	11-14
Lindenwood.....	18-20	10-16
Southwest Baptist.....	15-24	9-17
Washburn.....	12-27	6-22
Fort Hays State.....	13-26	5-20

NW FOOTBALL

2018 REGULAR SEASON

Missour Western.....	8/30
at Washburn University.....	9/6
Missouri Southern.....	9/15
at Central Oklahoma.....	9/22
Emporia State.....	9/29
at Pittsburg State.....	10/6
Nebraska-Kearney.....	10/13
at Lindenwood.....	10/20
at Northeastern State.....	10/27
Fort Hays State.....	11/3
at Central Missouri.....	11/10

MHS FOOTBALL

2018 REGULAR SEASON

at Blair Oaks (Kickoff Classic)	8/24
Harrisonville.....	8/31
Chillicothe.....	9/7
at St. Pius X.....	9/14
at Cameron.....	9/21
St. Joseph Benton.....	9/28
St. Joe Leblond.....	10/5
at Savannah.....	10/12
at St. Joseph Lafayette.....	10/19

Rivalry Ignites

Bearcats, Gorillas add new chapter to feud

TRENT SPINNER
Chief Reporter | @trentspinner

As Northwest baseball fell to Pittsburg State April 12-13, this multisport rivalry stakes its claim to being the best in the record books.

With the school year wrapping up, the three major sports each got a shot to face off against the Gorillas (27-14, 19-10 MIAA) in a different fashion, but it's the history that defines the series as a whole.

The Bearcats (21-18, 16-9 MIAA) hosted Pittsburg State over this past weekend, riding the momentum of the Central Missouri series win. That momentum fell



short, as the Bearcats were torched by the Gorillas in every category of the game to lose 3-16, 0-5 and 3-8.

"The night before we had 15-plus hits against Missouri Western, but could not get the bats going the next day," junior Mondesi Gutierrez said. "We were just a little off defensively and offensively; we were just missing a few pieces to the puzzle."

The record books tell a story of a rivalry that is second to none in the MIAA, when Northwest and Pittsburg State battle. Whether it be on the diamond, the court or the football fields, if either team doesn't bring their A games, then it could easily be chalked up as a loss.

"They are a great team, just like us; they are a team that will

take advantage of your mistakes and errors," senior Kevin Handzlik said. "We did not play our cleanest baseball and Pitt took advantage of that."

Though the latest installment was on the Bearcat Baseball Fields, the rivalry existed through the year and can be seen a lot in recent history.

Starting with baseball, Northwest holds the edge in competition with a 44-34 lead in the all time series. Since 2011, however, the Gorillas own the series 14-10 after adding three key wins this past weekend. Football establishes much of the same traditions with a 26-25 total record, but a 4-4 split since 2011. Basketball seems to be the only exception as they have dominated

Pittsburg State 12-3 since 2011, but either way the series stands at 65-63 in Northwest's favor.

As each victory bides to the ever-changing all time series leads, the things that are most remembered are the memories crafted from the rivalry.

"One huge memory for me was last year when we swept them at their place, one of my good friends and ex-Bearcat ace, Anthony Caenepeel, broke the career strikeout record," Handzlik said. "That was an awesome night of baseball."

Even though this rivalry was a pivotal point in the season, the Bearcats won't let that get them down. Now that it's all said and done, the opportunity to stand up

NEXT GAME
Northwest @ Missouri Southern April 20-22 @ 6 p.m., 1 p.m., 12 p.m.

and fight off the rest of their MIAA competitors is on.

Northwest swept its double-header with Nebraska Kearney (22-7, 15-10 MIAA) April 17, beating the Lopers 9-8 and 13-4.

"Our team is very talented and we forget easily, the series against Pitt is done and over with," Gutierrez said. "We are going to go in hungry and ready to pounce; I believe our team has what it needs to be successful in these last few weeks."



Coach Emily Peterson offers junior Kevin Schultz guidance following a scratched attempt at the high jump Thursday, April 5 in the MIAA vs. NSIC Showdown meet.

JUSTIN QUICK | NW MISSOURIAN

Junior runner's vision for track, field pinpoints team's growth

JUSTIN QUICK
Chief Reporter | @Jquick88

Two straight trips to the NCAA National Championship meet and a Northwest high jump record are accolades that junior track and field athlete Kevin Schultz has accumulated.

These accomplishments are simply a part of Schultz's ultimate goal.

Following the 2016 NCAA Outdoor Championships, Schultz left the track with a sour taste in his mouth with a 16th place, clearing 6-6 ¾ in the high jump. This bitter feeling would have to wait a year to be satisfied, when he redshirted the 2016-2017 season.

It was in this time that Schultz strengthened a passion inside him for track and field he now carries in everything he does.

"I did not get this deep into track until after my sophomore year, going into my redshirt year for track," Schultz said. "Knowing that I took a break and stepped back from track, the whole year off showed me this is something I like



to do, and I don't like to sit out."

During his redshirt year, Schultz stayed connected to the track and field atmosphere helping as coach at North Andrew. The passion that was rekindled with Schultz helped focus him in on his goal, to help track and field develop and grow.

"I would really like to see track and field become as big as football, baseball and basketball because it is on that level to me, so I would like to spread it for everyone else," Schultz said.

Schultz was not the only one who recognized the fire lit inside him after the redshirt season. Assistant coach Emily Peterson said he used the redshirt the right way.

"When he got into his redshirt year, he figured out really quickly 'This is not a year off, this is a year for me to train,'" Peterson said. "By the time that year got done and he came back, he knew exactly what he wanted to do and had a very clear vision of what he wanted for himself and for his teammates."

Schultz's goal of making track and field bigger stems from his everyday interactions with people

NEXT GAME
KU Relays @ Lawrence, KS April 19-21

around the campus and community. Track and field can at times be a sport that many view as just running or a simple jump.

Schultz said he wants to get these people to understand the uniqueness of track and field and to spread his knowledge to those around him.

"My goal in track and field is just to make it bigger," Schultz said. "A bigger sport in general where everyday people know what high jump is, and it is not just the event they ask you 'Is that the one with a stick?' I'm just like, 'No it is not.' I just wish people would understand good times, bad times and things like that."

As Schultz continues his season and career at Northwest, his goal to grow the knowledge of track and field will no doubt continue to motivate him on and off the track.

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Sophomores Erin Keeney (left) and Kaitlyn Weis (center) celebrate with coach Ryan Anderson during Northwest's rally against Nebraska-Kearney as they take the sweep during the Bearcats' Pink Out games Thursday, April 12.

DYLAN COLDSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

Softball delivers clutch offensive results

JAMES HOWEY

Chief Reporter | @How_eyseesit

Northwest softball sized a pair of sweeps against competitive MIAA opponents thanks to timely hitting from its bats and help from the bullpen.

The Bearcats (25-13, MIAA 16-6) swept both Fort Hays and Nebraska Kearney after splitting their previous two series. Sophomore Kaitlyn Weis proved to be one of the standout hitters during both series.

Weis finished with two three-hit games, six RBIs and three home runs. Weis is second in the MIAA in home runs with 13 on the season.

"We had been struggling a little bit because of sweeps we

couldn't get against teams that we should have swept," Weis said. "That should help us compete and get back to playing Bearcat softball. Hopefully, we'll stay there."

Weis hit two separate two-run home runs against the Lopers (14-27, MIAA 10-14) and Tigers that helped spark a Northwest comeback in both games.

"I think those were both pretty important to us because we were struggling at those times," Weis said. "We were then able to build off of both of those plays and win."

Coach Ryan Anderson gave credit to Weis and fellow sophomore Erin Keeney, who hits behind her in the lineup and can create an issue for opposing pitching staffs.

"If we can get people on base

and follow that up by getting Kaitlyn and Erin going we have a chance to score every time," Anderson said. "You have them back-to-back and it's tough to pitch to them because they can both hit."

Keeney has 11 home runs this season, which ranks third in the conference.

Both of the Northwest starting pitchers finished with a short outing in both series, which meant the bullpen needed to step up.

Freshman Regan Thompson got two wins in the reliever role, including pitching four innings in a game against Nebraska-Kearney. Senior Holly Posegate also picked up a win replacing sophomore Rachel Smith against the Lopers. Anderson said he was pleased with the showing of his bullpen.

"They did what they are supposed to do," Anderson said. "It's good to have just some people to come in and get some outs for us to get some wins."

Sophomore Sydne Brashear delivered a 4-4 three RBI hitting performance in a game against Fort Hays. Anderson said the judgment of his team seem to be better during at-bats against the Tigers (11-35, MIAA 7-17).

"It seemed like we had more aggressive at-bats," Anderson said. "When it was a strike, we were trying to drive through it, and it was one of those days where we may have had a little help from the wind. The ball went out, but we're grateful for that because we needed it."

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Maryville senior Maddie Holtman (right) congratulates teammate Lydia Mitchell (left) on scoring a goal in the first half of the game March 22 against Harrisonville.

MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Soccer rebounds after loss to St. Charles West

ANDREW WEGLEY

Missourian Reporter | @andrew_wegley21

Following a weekend in which they suffered their second loss of the season against St. Charles West in the Hannibal tournament, the Spoofhounds righted the ship, winning their second consecutive game to remain perfect in conference play.

Maryville girls soccer continued its winning ways Tuesday afternoon against the Midland Empire Conference (MEC) rival Chillicothe Lady Hornets. The Spoofhounds (9-2, 3-0 MEC) handily beat Chillicothe 6-1.

Over the weekend in Hannibal, Maryville went 2-1 to place third in the tournament, defeating Rosati-Kain and Parkway Central in the first and third rounds, respectively.

Entering their matchup with Chillicothe, the Spoofhounds had not lost a game in which they had scored a goal, with their only losses coming in the form of shutouts.

The bizarre and impressive

statistic held true after 80 minutes of soccer came and went against the Lady Hornets.

The game started on a note in which the Spoofhounds are unaccustomed to, with their opponent scoring just 30 seconds into the game. Down 1-0 early, Maryville settled in and didn't look back.

"I didn't get too excited when they (Chillicothe) scored in the first 22 seconds," coach Dale Reuter said. "(Chillicothe) showed what they had real quick, and we figured out what we needed to do. We made a couple changes real quick, got the team settled down and just started playing Maryville ball."

Moments after senior Lydia Mitchell tied the game early in the first half for Maryville, sophomore standout Morgan Pettlon's first goal of the evening gave the Spoofhounds a lead they would not surrender.

"It was definitely a wake-up call," Mitchell said. "I think they caught us off guard. We went into the game really feeling like we

could win; they just made a good play, but we recovered."

In all, the Spoofhounds scored six unanswered goals, five of which came off the foot of Pettlon. The sophomore has consistently led the way offensively for Maryville this season, now with 26 goals in 11 games.

"She's been consistent," Reuter said of Pettlon. "I told her at halftime I was going to give her seven minutes, she had four (goals) at the time. I gave her 11 minutes, and she did what she could. I really like her confidence this year."

Perhaps the most impressive facet of Maryville's latest offensive outburst is the team it came against.

Entering the matchup with the Spoofhounds, Chillicothe had shutout six of their nine opponents, and had allowed just one goal to another.

SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT NWMISSOURINEWS.COM

Senior midfielder leading the way for Spoofhounds

ANDREW WEGLEY

Missourian Reporter | @andrew_wegley21

For four years, Lydia Mitchell has been a staple at midfield for Maryville girls soccer. In her senior season, Mitchell has embraced a role of leadership that seems bound to lead Maryville soccer on a deep postseason run.

In some ways, Mitchell's personal performance for the Spoofhounds has served as second fiddle all season, often yielding goals and

headlines to her sophomore teammate Morgan Pettlon.

The formula has been effective and potent for the Spoofhounds, winning nine of their first 11 games, in part because Mitchell has been such an excellent teammate.

While the mold that the 'Hounds have used to win game after game doesn't pad Mitchell's stats or highlight her own dynamic scoring ability, it has been paramount to the success of the team.

"This year has been very different from any other year,"

Mitchell said. "It's really important to me just because I'm a senior, but also because it's my last chance with all these girls."

As the case with any high school athlete, Mitchell recognizes her senior season is the last opportunity to make a deep postseason run. The Spoofhounds' superb start to the season provides some hope to fuel the fire for the team as they inch closer to the finish line.

Mitchell, like her teammates, has been here before. Still, this season has offered an unfamiliar

sensation to go along with the usual day-to-day grind of the season.

"There's just something different about the atmosphere of the team," Mitchell said. "Everybody really wants to work, and everybody really, really wants to win. It's a brand new atmosphere that everyone has bought into. It makes soccer fun, and it makes me want to be here."

With each and every win, Maryville inches closer to a common goal. Perhaps the sensation felt by Mitchell, unlike any she's

felt in her career, is the product of a winning culture instilled by coach Dale Reuter. The "brand new atmosphere," as Mitchell called it, is more likely an intended outcome of Reuter's design.

"(Reuter) has always been a really big supporter of me and of all the other girls," Mitchell said. "He really does his best to make it an even playing field, and that is, I think, why our team is so successful: it's a competitive atmosphere."

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